**Biosecurity Champion**

**Chris Nathanael – Tropiculture**

**English**

Hi I’m Chris Nathanael of Tropiculture and we’ve been operational for 43 years growing 400 different varieties of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and spices.

We have never had a disease on this property, and we have done that by making sure that everyone here understands and follows the Quarantine protocol and practices.

We have our own ‘Best Management Practices and Plan’ which is specific to our farm, again to make sure that everyone knows exactly what to do to keep our property safe. Make sure to keep this up-to-date by considering changing movements, processes and timings.

We participate in a number of national and international forums to make sure that we are keeping up to date with the latest techniques and technologies to keep our farm safe.

By being self-sufficient and manufacturing the products we need on-site we have another layer of protection against diseases. For example, we make our own virus free ‘clean’ commercial potting medium which we use in our nursery. And we even sell it to off-site operators.

For propagation and plant production, if we can’t manufacture the goods on site, we only use approved and certified sources. No free swapping between farms.

You can increase your farm’s biosecurity levels too by being mindful of the sources you import from and try to make what you can onsite.

As soon as you are made aware of pests and diseases on your property, take action. A Citrus Canker incursion outbreak in the near area resulted in 40% of our business stopping overnight because of restrictions imposed by national committees.

If you can ensure your compliance with the applicable quarantine requirements, then it’s possible to request Property Freedom Accreditation so that you may trade and move intra and interstate with your products. The registered authority will also have to ensure that there is adequate monitoring conducted.

If each of us keep our farms free from pests and diseases then each Northern plant industry is safer. Make sure to actively participate in community discussions, from neighbour to neighbour, farm to farm and zone to zone.

You can be a champion too.

**Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment**

**Top Watch Biosecurity**

**Biosecurity – its everyone’s business**